

# Dr Marjorie O'Neill

YOUR MEMBER FOR COOGEE

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

### MESSAGE FROM MARJORIE

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2022!

I hope that you have all had a restful and wonderful summer break.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to those who have been volunteering and working over the summer period to help keep our community safe. Thank you to all our amazing frontline workers who have continued to work over this period to protect us, as well as our fantastic surf lifesaver volunteers who have dedicated their free time to keep our beaches safe.

It is, however, that time of the year again when we trade wearing a swimsuit for putting on school clothes and getting ready to learn! Whether you are changing schools or starting a new class, going back to school is an exciting time of year. Real learning means paying attention and staying curious. I wish all the children and families in my electorate a great year of learning, inspiration and happiness!

Being your Member for Coogee is the most rewarding job I could ever imagine. As a fifth generation eastern suburbs local, our community is in my DNA and I have made a commitment to always put our community first. Since becoming your Member in 2019 I have enjoyed meeting with many constituents, sporting clubs, businesses and community groups in our area. For those I am yet



Supporting Windgap and cycling without age

to meet, please contact my office, as I am keen to hear from you and find out how we can work together to solve problems.

To stay up to date with everything, including COVID, buses and NSW Parliamentary legislation, please sign up to our digital newsletter.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marjorie O'Neill'.

**Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**

Member for Coogee

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## SCHOOL FUNDING CAMPAIGN

**NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CURRENTLY BEING UNDERFUNDED TO THE TUNE OF \$600 MILLION PER YEAR WHEN COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL GONSKI FUNDING PLAN AGREEMENT.**

In the original Gonski plan, only money that directly contributed to learning - such as teacher salaries and electricity for schools - was to be counted towards the Schooling Resource Standard. This was to ensure at least 80 per cent of students met minimum standards.

However, in 2018 the plan was altered so that states could use money that they had already spent, that was not directly linked to learning, to account for up to four per cent of their Gonski funding targets.

This chronic underfunding has led to a growing dependence on P&Cs to fund basic needs and infrastructural upgrades at our public schools as well as teacher shortages and declining results. We are witnessing across the East inadequate funding for long overdue and essential upgrades and an increasing reliance on demountable classrooms.

I am sponsoring a petition to NSW Parliament, supported by P&C Associations from across the Eastern Suburbs that calls on the NSW Government to fully fund our NSW Public schools in line with the original Gonski agreement.

Scan the QR code to read and sign the petition.



## SAVE OUR BUSES

During the final sitting week of NSW Parliament, hundreds of locals rallied again against the NSW Government's plan to cut an additional 24 local bus routes and 50 stops from across the Eastern Suburbs.

Despite over 100,000 signatures on petitions to Parliament, thousands of letters to the Minister and now five rallies and counting, the NSW Government continues to ignore the voices of locals who desperately want to keep their buses.

Since the brutal cuts were made, my electorate office received thousands of emails, calls and messages from distressed and furious locals who turned up to their bus stops to find that their bus no longer exists and can now no longer access hospitals, get to work or visit friends and family.

In a community win, our campaign to Save Our Buses has ensured that the cuts and planned privatisation of our Eastern Suburbs buses has been referred to a NSW Upper House committee of inquiry.



This inquiry is vital, as local people deserve to know why the Government is making these savage cuts to their buses. To stay up to date with our campaign to Save Our Buses, scan the QR code.



## SAVE OUR PARKS

Centennial Park and Moore Park are some of Australia's most important public spaces.

Our public parklands are the lungs of our city. They provide vital spaces for local people to take a break from the walls of their apartments and offices and to escape into nature. For generations, those parks have been protected by independent trusts, backed up by the New South Wales Parliament.

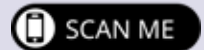
Generations of people have been able to enjoy the beauty and recreation that Centennial and Moore Park have to offer and it is our responsibility to ensure, protect and safeguard those parks for future generations.

The NSW Planning Minister, however, is planning to hand over the management of the public

parks into a super agency via the Greater Sydney Parklands Bill.

The Greater Sydney Parklands Bill will reduce community control over these priceless public parklands and pave the way for commercial interests to profit from some of Sydney's most iconic parks. This is a direct attack on our heritage parklands and will put them at greater risk of privatisation, commercialisation and green space reduction.

The Bill has been referred to a NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry. To stay up to date with the campaign to Save Our Parks, scan the QR code.



TUNE IN TO COOGEE VOICE, OUR COMMUNITY PODCAST TO HEAR LOCAL NEWS AND VOICES

I am continuing to work with local charities to support our community's most vulnerable. My office is a drop off point for the charities below and if it is within your means to make a contribution to these wonderful organisations please consider doing so.



# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

As we enter the New Year and we can gather again in person I would like to invite you to meet with me. I will be setting up mobile offices throughout the year and I am excited to announce the return of coffee with a pollicie.

I will be announcing the locations and times of these on my social media and through my regular update emails so make sure to follow and subscribe to those, in order to keep up to date. I look forward to seeing you all in person soon!



SUBSCRIBE TO MY EMAIL



2021 Student Leadership Breakfast



2021 Coogee Island Challenge with Swiss 8 Veterans Charity



Catching up with our Waverley Men's Shed



OLSH Member for Coogee Social Impact Award Winner



Supporting our Clovelly Eagles with our Local Sports Grants



Providing the key note address at NAJEX



Supporting local cinema during the lockdown

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